

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 NIC-01

/139 W

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P R 302100Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4025

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1679

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT NU

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDIA CENSORSHIP: STATUS REPORT

REF: MANAGUA 1636

1. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS EXPRESSED REFTEL, OPPOSITION
LA PRENSA HAS NOT APPEARED SINCE APRIL 25. GON ORDER THAT
LA PRENSA MUST BRING ACTUAL PROOFS TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS FOR
PRIOR CENSORSHIP WAS REVISED APRIL 27 TO PERMIT
NEWSPAPER TO SUBMIT FINAL DRAFT COPIES OF ARTICLES AND REPORTS
IT PROPOSED PUBLISHING. PUBLISHER CHAMORRO, HOWEVER, CONTINUES
TO TAKE POSITION THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MEET THIS
REQUIREMENT BECAUSE HIS NEWSPAPER IS BEING WRITTEN AND
DEVELOPED AROUND-THE-CLOCK AND ITS PIECES CANNOT BE GATHERED
TOGETHER AND TAKEN TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS FOR CENSOR TO
EXAMINE DURING THREE HOURS IN MORNING AND THREE IN AFTERNOON
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HE IS ON THE JOB. CHAMORRO MAINTAINS THAT COPY IS THE

"INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" OF THE NEWSPAPER AND HE WILL NOT SURRENDER IT TO GOVERNMENT. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PUBLISHER CHAMORRO IS NOTED FOR HIS STUBBORNNESS, WE SUSPECT THAT IMMINENT SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE AND TERMINATION OF CENSORSHIP ARE INSPIRING HIM TO HOLD OUT. END COMMENT.

2. THE SOMOZA-OWNED NOVEDADES CONTINUES TO PUBLISH EACH DAY WITH NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF CENSORSHIP. IT DID CARRY SEVERAL ARTICLES ON PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION OVER WEEKEND, BUT NATIONAL NEWS WAS TOO SPARSE TO BE ABLE TO CONCLUSIVELY JUDGE DEGREE OF CENSORSHIP. NICARAGUA'S ONLY OTHER NEWSPAPER THE EL CENTROAMERICANO (OPPOSITION LIBERAL CIRCULATION 7000) CONTINUES TO BE PUBLISHED WITH NO RESTRICTION IN LEON OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE CENSORSHIP DECREE.

3. RADIO AND TV NEWS PROGRAMS ARE AGAIN BEING BROADCAST MORNING, AFTERNOON AND EVENING WITH FAIRLY RESTRICTIVE CENSORSHIP OF THEIR CONTENTS.

4. COMMENT: GON HAS REPORTEDLY REACHED AGREEMENT WITH STRIKING HOSPITAL WORKERS AND MEDICAL STRIKE IS EXPECTED TO END BY MAY 1 (SEE SEPTTEL REPORT). WE CONTINUE TO PRESUME THAT CENSORSHIP DECREE WILL BE LIFTED SOON THEREAFTER, AND GENERAL SOMOZA HAS ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT THIS WILL BE THE CASE. SHELTON

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